

Washington State Senator • 46th Legislative District

Ken Jacobsen



2007 Legislative Session Wrap-up

Please Keep in Touch

Olympia Office:

P.O. Box 40446
Olympia, WA 98504-0446

Phone: (360) 786-7690

Seattle Voice Mail: (206) 515-0750

Legislative Hot Line:

(800) 562-6000 or
(800) 653-9993 (TTY)

E-mail: jacobsen.ken@leg.wa.gov

Web Page:

www.sdc.wa.gov/jacobsen.htm

Senator Ken Jacobsen represents the 46th District, which encompasses Greenwood, Northgate, Lake City and Laurelhurst. He is chair of the Senate Natural Resources, Ocean & Recreation Committee and a member of the Senate Agriculture & Rural Economic Development Committee, the Senate Consumer Protection & Housing Committee and the Senate Transportation Committee.

Spring 2007

Dear Neighbors,

We accomplished a lot in the 2007 legislative session – for education, health care and the environment.

Not only did we pass a budget providing \$4.2 million dollars to the Seattle Public School system over the course of two years to close the achievement gap for students of color and students in poverty, we passed an education package to implement the Washington Learns report, which recommended innovative improvements to revolutionize early learning, K-12 education and educator preparation.

We also extended health care coverage to an additional 39,000 children, and took measures to assure that every Washington resident has access to affordable, high-quality health care by 2010.

As the chair of the Senate Natural Resources, Ocean & Recreation Committee, I worked on several pieces of legislation to ensure our natural environment remains abundant and our fish, water and wildlife remain protected.

One of my main priorities for this session was to establish a state-led forest health program to address the current condition of our forests. I am pleased to share this bill passed. I also spearheaded legislation to expand the Veterans Conservation Corps program to provide corps enrollees with job placement assistance in the field of natural resource restoration.

I worked hard to improve our education funding, protect our environment and make sure your voice was heard on the Viaduct project. Please continue to let me know if you have any questions on the legislation we passed, or on other issues important to you.

Sincerely,

Sen. Ken Jacobsen
46th Legislative District



Natural Resource and Environmental Victories

During this legislative session, we accomplished several victories for our environment and natural resources. As the chair of the Natural Resources, Ocean & Recreation Committee, I am pleased to report we passed legislation that keeps Washington a national leader for environmental progress.

Protecting Puget Sound

Our Puget Sound is plagued by toxic pollution, damaged shorelines and a decaying habitat. We need to remain committed to restoring and protecting Puget Sound and preserving the health of the ecosystem. With that in mind, the Legislature passed:

- **Creation of the Ocean Policy Advisory Council.** Ocean policy issues have gained significant national attention in recent years. Recently, several states along the West Coast have taken steps to coordinate state ocean policies by establishing state-level councils. Washington did not have a group responsible for coordinating the state's ocean policy. So I introduced a bill to create an Ocean Policy Advisory Council to direct our efforts to preserve and promote coastal and ocean resources. (Senate Bill 5213)
- **Saving Puget Sound.** We need to leave a legacy of a clean, healthy Sound for our children. This session, we passed a bill to create the Puget Sound Partnership, which will define and set priorities to protect and restore Puget Sound by 2020. (SB 5372)

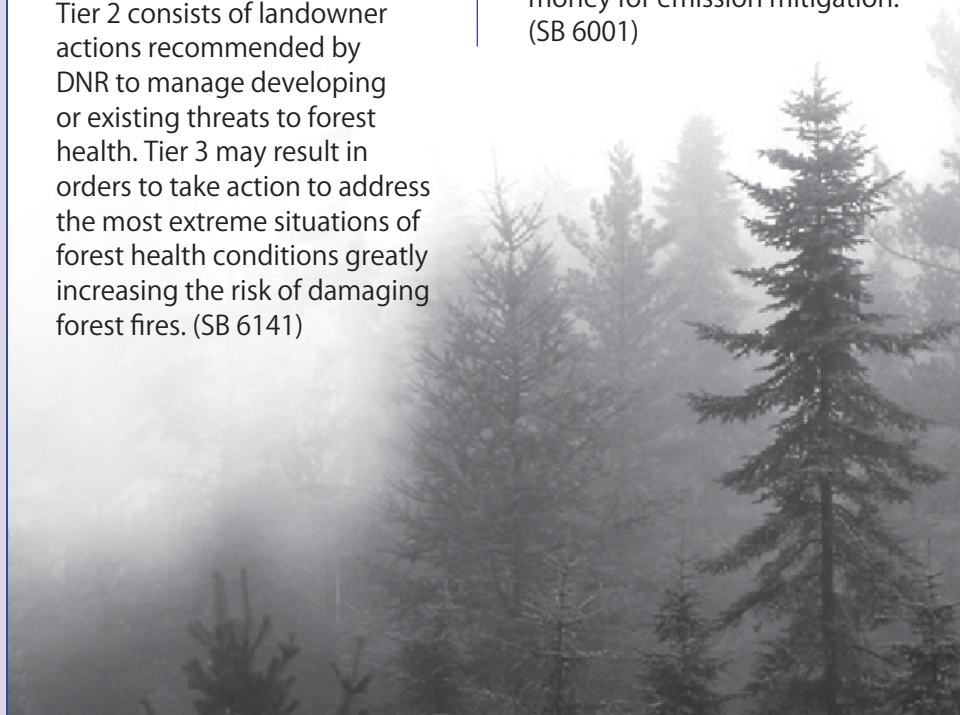
Preservation of our natural resources

Protecting our public resources — fish, wildlife, water — while allowing landowners to go about their business is important. This is why revitalizing our timberlands remains a top priority for me.

- **Forest Health.** A new program within the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will provide the state with a comprehensive forest health program and create a three-tiered system to address forest health issues. Tier 1 consists of voluntary landowner actions and technical assistance provided by DNR. Tier 2 consists of landowner actions recommended by DNR to manage developing or existing threats to forest health. Tier 3 may result in orders to take action to address the most extreme situations of forest health conditions greatly increasing the risk of damaging forest fires. (SB 6141)

Laws to protect our air and habitat

- **Curtailling greenhouse gas emissions.** Washington continues to be a national leader in responding to global climate change. This session we passed a measure to roll back our emissions to 1990 levels by 2020. This bill establishes a rigorous greenhouse gas performance standard for new natural gas and coal plants, and for utilities' power purchases. It offers utilities incentives to invest in cost-effective conservation and energy-efficiency technologies, and authorizes utilities to spend money for emission mitigation. (SB 6001)



Ensuring education remains a priority

Education remains a top priority for me. Seattle and many large urban school districts are faced with challenges because of the sheer diversity of students, students with special needs and those in poverty. Unprecedented challenges require us to demand durable solutions. Therefore, I will continue to be an advocate for more funding for our schools. This session, we expanded opportunities for students at every stage of their education.



Senator Ken Jacobsen and constituents tour the capitol campus

Strengthening early learning and K-12 programs

We passed bills to make sweeping changes to our education system and implement the vision of the Washington Learns task force by creating a world-class education system that addresses each student's unique learning style, and better prepares students to compete in the global economy.

- **Early learning.** We invested in our youngest citizens by creating a council to develop a statewide early learning plan and authorized the creation of a rating system for child care centers, to inform parents of the quality of child care providers and programs. (SB 5828)
- **Math and science.** To prepare our students to compete in a global economy, we passed legislation to improve technology training and create public-private partnerships to foster hands-on math and science learning. (SB 5813)
- **Drop-out prevention.** We created a comprehensive statewide drop-out prevention and intervention program. (SB 5497)

Making higher education accessible and affordable

It is vital to make higher education accessible to learners who want to enter college and affordable to low- and middle-income adults. Keeping our graduates here contributes to Washington's economic vitality.

- **College Bound Scholarship.** Students and parents who might be ruling out college because of cost concerns have an opportunity to pursue their dreams with the passage of a bill to create a Washington College Bound Scholarship. This scholarship was created for eligible seventh-grade students to encourage them to complete high school and pursue a college degree. (SB 5098)
- **Student loans.** We passed a bill to authorize the Washington Higher

Education Facilities Authority to offer supplemental student loans, saving students an average of \$5,000 over the term of a loan. The loans will particularly benefit students who don't qualify for federal loans or grants because of their income. (SB 5385)

- **Tuition cap.** We implemented a recommendation of the governor's Washington Learns task force by capping statewide tuition to no more than 7 percent a year. (SB 5806)
- **Survivor's endowment scholarship.** To assist surviving children and spouses of a deceased military veteran, we passed legislation to create a survivor's endowment scholarship. (SB 5040)



Suzzallo Library at the University of Washington Campus

Supporting our veterans

This session, I spearheaded legislation to expand the Washington Veterans Conservation Corps program. The existing program connects veterans to volunteer, natural resource restoration and stewardship projects. The expanded program will provide corps enrollees with training, skills, certification and job placement assistance in the field of natural resource restoration. Veterans could work on projects that help protect and restore Washington's rivers, streams, lakes, marine waters and open lands. (SB 5164)

Protecting consumers

Consumers are increasingly using credit and debit cards to make purchases. The average American family pays more than \$300 each year in expensive hidden interchange fees and retailers pay a sales tax of \$78

million per year on the interchange fees that banks charge.

Because of concerns on the lack of transparency on interchange fees, I sponsored three measures on this issue. Although these bills did not pass out of committee, I am hopeful they will be considered in the next legislative session.

- SB 5884 would protect consumers by requiring the state to reimburse a retail seller for the state portion of any sales tax paid on interchange fees.
- SB 5885 would prohibit financial institutions from charging interchange fees on the state sales tax portion of a retail sale transaction.
- SJM 8020 would seek congressional action to limit credit card interchange fees and to develop clear and concise consumer disclosure on the fees.



Prescription drug discounts

In 2005, we created the Washington Prescription Drug Program, a new effort open to all Washington residents who do not have prescription drug insurance coverage or whose insurance does not cover all their prescription drug needs. The state-sponsored prescription drug discount card, which was unveiled this March, will save Washingtonians an average of 20 percent on brand-name drugs and 60 percent on generic drugs. Enrollment forms are available online at www.rx.wa.gov or by calling 800-913-4146.

Improving our transportation system

Maintaining public safety, providing capacity and mobility and spending taxpayer money responsibly are all important to me. During this past session, I worked hard to make sure your thoughts and concerns on the Alaskan Way Viaduct and other transportation projects were heard in Olympia.

- **Highway 520 bridge.** To create a process for bringing Seattle neighborhood groups and local political leaders together to work out a common vision for a new 520 bridge, we passed legislation requiring the Washington State Department of Transportation to hire a mediator with staff expertise in urban, transportation

and neighborhood planning. The mediator would work with neighborhood groups, as well as representatives from the Arboretum, the University

of Washington and the city of Seattle to develop a plan designed to mitigate the potential impact of the construction of the new highway. (SB 6099)



Other Key Bills – Did They Pass?

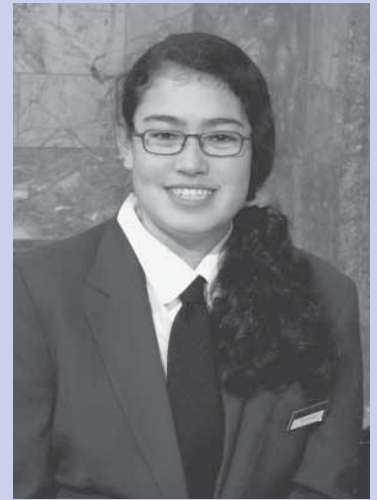
	Passed	Failed
Health care for children An additional 39,000 children in families with incomes at or below 250 percent of the federal poverty level would get health care coverage.	✓	
Simple majority When local levies were originally created, they were meant for enrichment programs that local communities wanted to support, but now districts claim they are being used for more. Because our district has no problem voting in special school property tax levies, I initially voted against this bill and called for additional money for Seattle to support our students on free and reduced lunches. In the final vote of the House version of the bill, I voted for simple majority because the Legislature understood some of Seattle's needs and provided the Seattle Public School system with \$4.2 million dollars over the next two years.	✓	
Cell phones in cars Restricting the use of a handheld phone while driving passed the Senate and House.	✓	
Viaduct This bill would have reimbursed the costs of an election on the Alaskan Way Viaduct ballot measure by providing the Department of Transportation with an extra \$1 million as part of its project oversight responsibilities to cover the costs of the election.		✓
Pet legislation I recognize pets are important in the lives of many. This is why I introduced a package of animal legislation this session. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency preparedness for service animals and household pets: Would have required emergency preparedness planning for service animals and household pets. • Dogs in bars: Would have allowed well-behaved leashed dogs to accompany their owners to establishments that hold a liquor license. • Animal protection orders: Would have established a provision in both temporary and permanent animal protection orders to restrain any party from intentionally injuring or killing, without justification, any animal known to be owned, possessed, leased, kept, or held by the victim or a minor child. 		✓



Senator
Ken Jacobsen

46th Legislative District

*Thanks to our
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Ken Jacobsen
WASHINGTON STATE SENATOR
46th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT
PO Box 40446
Olympia, WA 98504-0446

